GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1541
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
MIGRATION OF PSYCHIATRISTS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that one out of every seven Psychiatrists in the west is an Indian ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that nearly 8000 Psychiatrists have migrated to west and are practicing there ;

(c) if so, whether migration of Psychiatrists has adversely affected the national mental health;

(d) if so, whether the Government has chalked out any strategy in consultation with National Psychiatrists Association to improve the national mental health;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): The data relating to the number of Psychiatrists in west, the number of psychiatrists migrated to west and practicing there is not Centrally maintained.

(c)to(f): Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat the mentally ill patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government`s National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country with additional congruent districts, strengthen the 37 Government medical colleges and also psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges, undertake Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and research and training. So far 94 districts have been covered under the District Mental Health Programme; funds have been released for upgradation of psychiatric wings of 9 medical colleges and strengthening of one mental health institute. Further, funds have also been released for undertaking research and IEC activities.